

Weekly Column for December 30, 2004

I can hardly believe that this year is over. One year ago today I was eagerly awaiting January 1st to come, with a mix in my heart of anticipation and curiosity. On one hand, I was about to become the Mayor of Troy, a wonderful opportunity. On the other hand, I was about to become the Mayor of Troy, what in the world was I in for.

Outside of the swearing in, and greeting City employees on the first day, the first memory I have of the year, and I've told the story numerous times already, was watching the Troy Fire Department battle a three-alarm fire in Lansingburgh on a frigid Friday night. I had been attending an RPI hockey game earlier in the evening when I got a call that there was a large fire in progress. I left the game and went to the fire around 8 p.m. and stood there with the firefighters until well past 2 a.m.

As I stood there, I remember seeing DPW workers, guys from DPU on hand, Police blocking the roads, and Code Enforcement ready to inspect. All taking place on a freezing Friday night in Lansingburgh. And as I stood there and talked with some people, I saw a CDTA bus pull up to help keep the firefighters warm between breaks. Then someone from Stewart's arrived. Then Jimmy's Pizza. Then Price Chopper. Then Fishers Pizza. It was amazing. It was at that moment, with employees working their tails off and the community chipping in, that I knew I would love this job.

Throughout 2004, there have been a few downs, but for the most part everything has been wonderful and I thoroughly enjoy my job. As we enter into 2005, I want to thank the people of Troy once again for trusting me with this awesome responsibility.

We have many wonderful things that will take place in 2005, all of which aim to improve the quality of life in our City. We have development occurring from Lansingburgh to South Troy. The downtown shopping season has just completed, and all reports are it was great for most involved. There is good news everywhere you look! In 2005, we only look to expand the good news.

Happy New Year to you and yours, and hopefully, the next year will be as successful as the last.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy